GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4873
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2001
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of fruits and vegetables produced in the country and the percentage out of them being processed;

(b) the bottlenecks in the appropriate development of the industry; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage modernaisation of the food processing industries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH)

(a): According to the Indian Horticulture Data Base 2000 published byNational Horticulture Board, the productio n o f fruits and vegetable in the country is as under: -

Year	Fruit	Vegetable
1998-99	4,40,42,400 MT	8,75,36,300 MT

Less than 2% of the fruits and vegetables produced in the country are being processed in organized sector.

(b): Some of the major bottlenecks are : low demand, paucity of processable varieties and inadequate infrastructure.

(c): T h e D epartment o f F ood P rocessing Industries provides financial assistance in the form of grant and l o a n f o r setting up/modernization of food processing industries to PSUs,Joint Sector, Private/Assisted Sector, NGOs/Cooperatives. Besides, other agencies like National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultureand Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA),National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), also provide assistance under their respective schemes. This Sectorhas also been included as priority sector for providing loan by financial institutions. The Department of Food ProcessingIndustries have also drawn up a draft National Food Processing Policy which is expected to contribute in creating an enabling environment for this sector.